

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 110

By Langster

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study methods of augmenting remedies for violation of civil rights relating to race, ethnicity, religion, gender or any sensory, physical or mental disability.

WHEREAS, every day, in almost any arena of human existence, there occur numerous instances of discrimination, intimidation, or violence based upon race, religion, ethnicity, gender or disabilities somewhere within this state and nation; and

WHEREAS, citizens of this state who are sensitive to matters of justice and fairness will agree that the status of a full civil right should be a part of the right to obtain and hold employment; to enjoy accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges of places of public resort, accommodation, assemblage or amusement; to engage in property transactions; to engage in credit and other contractual transactions; and to vote and fully participate in the political process. These and many other aspects of life should be free from discrimination, intimidation or threat of violence; and

WHEREAS, citizens of this state should be afforded efficacious and easily accessible remedies in law to seek relief from such acts of discrimination, intimidation, threats of violence, actual violence and vandalism of personal property which constitute violations of basic civil rights; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a comprehensive reexamination of the role that federal and state law play in the daily deterrence of violations of basic civil rights because of race, religion, ethnicity, gender and various disabilities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the remedies available to citizens who have suffered violations of their civil rights because of race, religion, ethnicity, gender and disabilities under federal and state laws, to determine methods by which such remedies may be made more accessible, and to clarify the applicability of such remedies to United State Constitution First Amendment rights, religious corporations or other religious entities, sovereign immunity of the state, and underwriting and other risk assessment practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly; and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One Hundred Third General Assembly, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

